

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 605 without my signature.

While I abhor the conduct of any student who would threaten the reputation of a school teacher or other school employee by making false claims of sexual assault, I have a greater responsibility to protect the well being of California's school children. We must do everything possible to ensure that students who have been the victims of actual or attempted sexual assaults may come forward and report these incidents without fear of retribution. This bill could potentially result in a chilling effect on students' willingness to report.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger